Entitlement of States to modify schemes under NREGA

732. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been made applicable to all the districts in the country;

(b) if not, by which date the act will be made applicable to the uncovered districts;

(c) whether the state Governments are entitled to modify the scheme under the Act to make it more effective, as per the situations prevailing in the States;

(d) if so, to what extent the scheme can be modified; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched in 200 districts with effect from 2.2.2006. The Scheme was extended to 130 additional districts with effect from 1.4.2007. The Government has notified all the remaining rural areas of the country for coverage under NREGS with effect from 1.4.2008.

(c) to (e) In accordance with Section 4 (1) of NREG Act, every State Government is required to frame a Scheme, within one year from the date of enactment of the Act, for providing not less than 100 days of guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas covered under the Scheme and whose adult members, by application, volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Scheme so framed, must provide for the minimum features and facilities as specified in Schedule I and II of the Act respectively.

Transparency and public participation in NREG Programme

733. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has called for transparency and public participation to ensure the success of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in most of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that some States are not implementing the scheme in letter and spirit and diverting funds meant for the scheme for other purposes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Government would take steps to monitor the implementation of the rural development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To ensure the success of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, the Union Government has called for transpareny and public participation in its implementaiton. The details are as under: